

TOUGHEST TEST YET FACING WYCOMBE

How they stand

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
(DIVISION ONE)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	24	16	4	4	52	20	52
Ilford	26	15	6	5	36	24	51
Wycombe	25	14	6	5	41	27	48
Hendon	25	13	6	6	38	21	45
Dagenham	23	13	4	6	51	33	43
Slough	29	11	8	10	39	35	41
Dulwich	26	12	3	11	43	28	39
Tooting	21	11	5	5	37	22	38
Staines	23	10	7	6	27	16	37
Hitchin	27	10	7	10	27	31	37
Kingstonian	25	11	4	10	41	54	37
Sutton	21	10	6	5	42	25	36
Barking	24	10	5	9	35	34	35
Hayes	27	7	12	8	30	31	33
Leatherhead	21	9	5	7	35	34	32
Woking	27	8	3	16	34	46	27
Oxford	25	7	6	12	19	34	27
W'thamstow	22	7	5	10	26	29	26
Southall	23	7	4	12	28	38	25
Leytonstone	23	5	6	12	32	37	21
Clapton	27	2	9	16	17	46	15
	28	2	1	25	10	75	7

WYCOMBE Wanderers face their most important league match of the season tomorrow (Saturday) when they travel to Division One leaders Enfield. And, according to assistant manager John Reardon, the Blues must take an all-out attacking policy if they are to succeed.

John watched Enfield crush Southern League Banbury United 3-0 in the F.A. Trophy on Saturday, and came away from Southbury Road extremely impressed with the home side. Although he felt Banbury were poor opposition, Enfield turned on a display that would test Wycombe's resources to the limit.

Once again Enfield are out ahead at the top of Division One, a point clear of Ilford but with two games in hand. They have led the race virtually all season as they did last term before being pipped by Wycombe in the last match of the season. Wanderers took the title on goal average — one-tenth of a goal in fact.

Wycombe have the advantage of a home victory over the leaders already this season, Enfield's only away defeat in the league. The Blues triumphed 2-1 with Enfield scoring in the last minute. Dylan Evans will remember the game well for his brilliant 25-yard goal. Keith Mead hit the other.

Since that day in September, however, things have changed at Southbury Road. Manager Ted Hardy has left the club after their 1-0 defeat at Wembley in the F.A. Cup. Fred Callaghan, a player, took over and has now a squad of 15 players.

Things have been going well for Callaghan. Enfield have lost only twice since he took over, both at home. They went down 1-0 to Kingstonian and 2-1 to Dagenham. Their other defeat was at home to Leatherhead earlier in the season.

Looking at the Enfield side, they are likely to have Willie Carrick in goal tomorrow. Carrick took over from Mick Lowe when the number one 'keeper was injured and has maintained his place in the side. The full-backs are Tony Jennings and Phil Fry, the former Hendon players. Callaghan himself has switched from full-back to centre-back with Brian Wilson. In midfield, they have lots of experience in Roger Day, who signed from Ilford last month, Micky O'Sullivan and Dave Lawrence.

Up front, the centre-forward needs no introduction. Keith Searle left Wycombe during the close season and has since knocked in 19 league and cup goals for Enfield. Derek Baker and Peter McGillicuddy are his partners, Baker with 17 goals to his credit this season.

That was the side that beat Banbury on Saturday and is the probable team to meet Wycombe. It means that lightning-fast striker Dennis Gill will only be substitute and there are no places in the side for Les Eason, John Tone and Mick Lowe.

Whereas Enfield played mainly to the talents of Gill last season, they have since altered their tactics. Their game is based on possession and the man with the ball can expect support from at least two other players. Using the ball wide on the flanks through Baker and McGillicuddy with support from the midfield players, Searle is left with the task of finishing the moves in the middle, something at which he is most adept.

This, then, is what Wanderers can expect tomorrow. And, as John Reardon has stated, the best way to counter their tactics is to attack. If Wycombe can win enough of the ball they must keep Enfield busy defending. Much will depend on the midfield players, for they will have to accept the task of ball winning. The Blues' defence, in fine form at present, will come in for a stern test but the recent performances of John Delaney, Paul Birdseye and John Maskell will stand them in good stead. Up front, chances must be taken to put pressure on the leaders.

Wanderers, who last lost a league match back in October at Hitchin, have been playing well recently but will need to be at their very best tomorrow. Their probable team will be: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, J. Delaney, D. Bullock, H. Kennedy, T. Reardon, M. Holifield; D. Evans, A. Horseman, G. Anthony. Sub. D. Alexander. The referee is Mr. C. Downey, who was in charge of Wycombe's 1-1 draw at Oxford this season.

Wycombe fans making the trip to Southbury Road are advised to set off earlier than usual due to the match between Tottenham and Manchester United at White Hart Lane.